

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

September 16, 2009

Mr. Paul Hazen
President & CEO
National Cooperative Business Association
1401 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hazen,

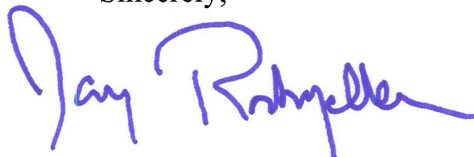
On July 30, 2009, I sent your office a letter requesting additional detailed information about the history, reliability, and oversight of health-related cooperatives in order to more accurately inform the discussion about reforming our nation's health care system. Thank you for your timely response to my letter. However, there is one data point that I would like to get clarification on:

Page 7 of your response letter states, "Today, five [consumer cooperative health plans] remain: Group Health Cooperative of Washington, HealthPartners, Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire, First Plan, and Group Health Cooperative of Southern Wisconsin."

The website for First Plan of Minnesota indicates that it is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Can you clarify how this plan meets NCBA's definition of a consumer health cooperative?

I would greatly appreciate your clarification on this data point no later than Friday, September 18, 2009. Should you or your staff have any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Ellen Doneski (202-224-0411) or Jocelyn Moore (202-224-6472) on my staff. I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV